'suits, appeals and applications by or against the Sreepadom Palace shall be treated as suits, appeals and applications by or against Government.' "

Mr. Thanu Pillay seconded the motion.

Carried.

It was resolved that the Bill as thus amended be read again on a future day of which previous notice shall be given.

PRISONS BILL.

Mr. Watts moved that the Prisons Bill as reported on by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

Mr. Bensley seconded the motion.

Carried.

No amendments being proposed, it was resolved that the Bill be read again on a future day of which previous notice shall be given.

DEPARTMENTAL ENQUIRIES BILL.

Resolved that a separate day be devoted to this Bill and that it be considered at an extraordinary meeting to be convened two months hence.

BILL TO REPEAL THE POLICE SUPERANNUATION REGULATION, 1060.

Mr. Watts moved that the Bill to repeal the Police Superannuation Regulation be taken up for consideration.

Mr. Muthunayagom Pillay seconded the motion.

Carried.

On the Bill being taken up Mr. Bensley spoke as follows :—

" Mr. President and Gentlemen,

This Bill affects only a portion of the members of a single Department, and you will, I trust, admit that if any one is entitled to express an opinion upon the effect of the measure upon that Department, it is myself.

Some misunderstanding has arisen regarding the freedom of action on the part of official members towards a Government measure, and it is opportune that the subject having been raised elsewhere, has quite recently been publicly set at rest.

We are told in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that this measure is intended to afford relief to the rank and file of the Police force who, it is conceded, are a 'very hard worked class of public servants entrusted with considerable responsibilities and powers.'

The relief proposed, Gentlemen, is this—that the deduction now made from the pay of the rank and file towards providing them with pensions and gratuities shall cease—and they shall be given pensions by Government under general service rules with this difference that they will be at liberty to retire on half pay at their option without medical certificate after 25 years' service, instead of after 30 years.

It is this that requires your careful attention. I have to ask you whether the aim specified in the " Objects and Reasons " will be attained by the measure now before you.

In all countries, as far as I know, some special pension rules are applied to the Police. The English Police, the Madras Police have their own rules and in Travancore this principle was recognised and the Regulation you are asked to repeal recognizes the propriety of securing for Police officers in Travancore suitable and special retiring allowances.

Now, Gentlemen, I shall shew you what advantages the constables of the Force will derive by the measure proposed.

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